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DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL  
REGULATION

**ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Approved July 26, 2017**

The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Committee held a meeting on May 15, 2017 at 4:30 p.m., in Conference Room A, Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, DE.

**PRESENT:** Ronald Castaldo, PhD, CRNA; Cindy Cunningham, PMHCNS/NP; Mary Diamond, DO (4:47pm); Sandy Elliott, CNM; Maryanne Holzapfel, RPh; Megan Williams, DNP, FNP-C

**ABSENT:** Richard Henderson, MD; Leena Paul, MD; Manisha Wadhwa, MD

**GUESTS:** Jill Englund Jensen, DNP, APRN; Chris DiPietro (DANA)

**PRESIDING:** Megan Williams, DNP, FNP-C

**STAFF:** Peggy Mack, PhD, APRN, Executive Director - Division of Professional Regulation; Jennifer L. Singh, Deputy Attorney General, Delaware Department of Justice

**1.0 Call to Order:** Dr. Williams called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

**2.0 Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Ms. Cunningham moved and Ms. Holzapfel seconded to approve the minutes; the motion was unanimously passed.

**3.0 Unfinished Business**

**3.1. Potential Rules and Regulations Changes for APRNs**

The Committee discussed potential changes in the Rules and Regulations for APRNs. The dates for the changes for the rules and regulations are pending as the APRN Committee has not voted yet on them. Discussion will continue at the June meeting. Points discussed included:

- The threshold for missing Committee meetings. It was noted that the Director's office tracks Committee members' attendance and consecutive absences and that the Board appoints Committee members.
- Certifications of APRNs and how practice is defined. For the latter, practice is not defined as "touching patients."
- The new / renewal application for APRNs was discussed, in context to required practice hours, graduation date, and the supervised practice plan requirement.

### 3.2. Applications for Independent Practice

Applications were reviewed for independent practice as advanced practice registered nurses for:

#### Cindy C. Cunningham, APRN, NP (Psych/ Mental Health CNS; Psych/Mental Health NP)

Dr. Castaldo moved, seconded by Ms. Elliott, to grant independent practice for the Psych / Mental Health CNS application; the motion passed by majority, with Ms. Cunningham recused.

Dr. Castaldo moved, seconded by Ms. Elliott, to grant independent practice for the Psych / Mental Health NP application; the motion passed by majority, with Ms. Cunningham recused.

#### Alma Halter Surrat, APRN, NP

Dr. Mack noted that Ms. Surrat has tabled her NP application at this time, but has submitted an APRN Psych / Mental Health CNS application (see new business).

## **4.0 New Business**

### 4.1. Statute – "Clean-up Bill" – as related to APRNs.

At the May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Board of Nursing meeting, the Board authorized the APRN Committee to determine changes to the language of Senate Bill 63 – the Nursing "clean-up" Bill's, in relation to APRNs. Ms. Singh discussed the current conflicting definitions of APRNs in the statute, and the Committee discussed how the bill should be amended so that the statute accurately defines APRN.

Committee members requested to see the full bill and its drafted amendment, prior to its introduction to the Senate. Ms. Singh agreed to send the drafted amendment to the Committee members who were present and requested that Committee members provide any feedback to Director Mangler by 8 am on May 17, 2017. The Bill and its amendment are to be introduced in the Senate on May 17<sup>th</sup>. A motion to accept the proposed amendment to Senate Bill 63 as discussed by Committee members was made by Ms. Cunningham and seconded by Ms. Elliott; the motion passed unanimously.

4.2. Applications were reviewed for independent practice as advanced practice registered nurses for:

Natalie Kasper, APRN, NP

Dr. Castaldo moved, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to grant independent practice; the motion passed unanimously.

Alma Halter Surrat, APRN, CNS (Psych / Mental Health)

Ms. Elliott moved, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to grant independent practice; the motion passed unanimously.

Pamela Poad, APRN, FNP

Ms. Elliott moved, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to grant independent practice; the motion passed by majority with Dr. Diamond abstaining.

Jean Louise Binkley, APRN, FNP

An amended application with the Verification of Experience and Competency forms will be requested and re-evaluated, along with the applicant's past discipline. Ms. Elliott moved, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to table the application for independent practice; the motion passed unanimously.

Beverly Van Schaik, APRN, FNP

Ms. Cunningham, moved, seconded by Dr. Diamond, to grant independent practice; the motion passed unanimously.

Vicki Hardisty, APRN, FNP

Dr. Castaldo moved, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to grant independent practice; the motion passed unanimously.

Patricia Yancey, APRN, FNP

Ms. Holzapfel moved, seconded by Dr. Diamond, to grant independent practice; the motion passed unanimously.

Ihuoma Chuks, APRN, NP (Adult/Gerontological)

The application and prior discipline was reviewed. Ms. Elliott moved, seconded by Dr. Castaldo, the motion passed by majority with Ms. Cunningham with abstaining.

Tanya Wilson, APRN

Dr. Mack stated that Ms. Wilson sent an email that she was withdrawing her application for independent practice.

Margaret Mack, APRN, CNS (Psych / Mental Health)

Dr. Diamond motioned, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to grant independent practice; the motion passed unanimously.

#### **5.0 Other Business** (for discussion)

It was acknowledged by the Committee and confirmed by Ms. Singh that Ms. Elliott was grandfathered for independent practice prior to the adoption of the new legislation for independent practice.

Ms. Cunningham deferred discussion of the DEA and APRNs ability to prescribe Buprenorphine.

The APRN requirements regarding Supervised Practice Plan were discussed and will be included on the June agenda.

Potential summer meeting dates were discussed again. A June meeting date was agreed upon, although Ms. Elliott and Dr. Williams will not be available; Dr. Castaldo will chair the June meeting.

#### **6.0. Public Comment**

Mr. Chris DiPietro introduced himself as a representative of DANA and stated that he appreciated observing the work of the Committee.

#### **7.0. Next Meeting Date** – June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

#### **8.0. Adjournment** – 7: 30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Peggy Mack, PhD, APRN, PMHCNS  
Executive Director, Board of Nursing